(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Procurement of paddy in Madhya Pradesh

†3604. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agencies are running in losses in procurement of paddy in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that different criteria are being adopted by the Central Government for Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Foodgrains procured by the State Governments and their agencies are ultimately taken over by the FCI. For the services rendered and expenses incurred by the State Governments and their agencies, FCI reimburses all the incidental expenses such as statutory charges, storage charges, milling charge in the case of paddy, interest, cost of mandi labour, cost of gunny, administrative charges, statutory taxes/cess etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Prices of edible oils

3605. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of edible oils, particularly those of low fat category like Safola etc. have been rising;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in prices for the last two years, category-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure availability of edible oils of all the categories, particularly of low fat categories, for which demand has been on the increase on medical grounds for the elderly?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.